THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India had accorded 'In-principle' approval to M/s. Bengal Aerotropolis Projects Limited for setting up of a Domestic Greenfield Airport at Andal - Faridpur blocks of Barddhaman District in West Bengal. Land required for the proposed Greenfield Domestic Airport is approximately 650 acres, out of which 533.51 acres have already been acquired.

(c) As per the information available from Geological Survey of India, there is coal reserve in Andal, West Bengal, the quantity of which is not separately estimated.

(d) The airport operator has informed that coal will not be mined below the surface of the proposed Greenfield Airport. Furthermore, there is an additional buffer zone that will be bereft of any mining activities thereby acting as a fire retardant zone below the surface. Extensive fire fighting measure will form an integral part of the Airport's fire fighting system. These measures, coupled with the fact that the coal seams lie at very large depths below the surface will pose no threat to safe airport operations.

(e) The Airport is scheduled for completion by December, 2011.

Establishment of Aviation University at Hyderabad

*78. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for establishment of an Aviation University of international standards at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the action that has been taken so far on the said request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) In the year 2005, Government of Andhra Pradesh had expressed its willingness to set up an aviation university at the Begumpet airport after its closure.

(c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh was advised to initiate the process of setting up the University in consultation with Ministry of Human Resource Development, with technical inputs regarding courses and curriculum provided by the Ministry of Civil Aviation as and when required. No further request has been received from the State Government In this regard.

Fixation of sale price of gas

†*79. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that high powered Group of Ministers headed by Shri Pranab Mukherjee was constituted in the past and was entrusted the responsibility of making suggestions concerning fixing of sale price of gas;

(b) if so, the name of the other Ministers in this Group of Ministers; and

(c) the price at which gas was being sold by public sector oil companies and the benchmark for fixing sale price of the gas at that time?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir. An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) was constituted in August, 2007 to examine and decide issues of gas pricing and commercial utilization of gas under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(b) The composition of EGoM included Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Power, Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Minister of Steel, Minister of Finance, Minister of Law and Justice, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Minister of Corporate Affairs and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.

(c) In August 2007, public sector oil companies were selling Natural Gas at a price of Rupees 3200 / MSCM (thousand standard cubic metres) or US $1.89/mmbtu (exchange rate taken is US $ 1 = Rs 48) from the fields given to them on nomination basis by the Government to "Administered Price Mechanism" (APM) customers in power and fertilizers sectors. Further, natural gas was being sold to other APM customers, *viz.*, small scale customers (consuming upto 50,000 standard cubic meters per day) and court-mandated customers, *viz.*, Taj Trapazium Zone and City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects at Rs 3840/MSCM (US $2.27/mmbtu). The issue of price determination for Natural Gas produced from these fields, called APM) Natural Gas, was referred to the Tariff Commission. Gas produced by Public Sector Oil Companies was sold to non APM customers at US$ 4.75/mmbtu (million metric british thermal unit) in Gujarat, Maharashtra and along Hajira Vijaypur Jagdishpur (HVJ) pipeline, at Rs.3,200/MSCM (US $ 1,89/mmbtu) in North East and at US $3.86/mmbtu in the rest of the country.

As regards the gas from NELP fields, the EGoM approved the price formula. The price as per approved formula comes to US $4.2/mmbtu for crude price greater or equal to US $ 60/barrel. The price basis/formula is valid for five years from the date of commencement of supply.

Late diagnosis of Swine Flu

*80. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: